

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. Revelation 11:1 NKJV

But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months Revelation 11:2 NKJV

First Question: Where are we located?

Geographically, **Revelation 11** points us to Jerusalem, the Holy City

Theologically, it points us to the place of God's presence, worship, ownership, and covenant claim or protection over His people e.g. worshippers

There are **three main views** theologians often mention on what is being seen

A literal temple view- Some believe John is speaking of an actual future temple in Jerusalem that will exist during the tribulation

A symbolic church view- Others understand the temple as representing the people of God, the worshiping community, since worshipers themselves are measured

Lars's mixed view – I see a literal setting with symbolic meaning, it is because the temple imagery points beyond the structure to God's covenant people

The strongest clue in the passage is this: **since worshipers are measured too, the focus cannot be only bricks and stone. God is measuring a people, not just a place**

These worshipers are those in a covenant relationship with God

The genuine believers whom God knows and claims as His own during the tribulation

In the context of Revelation, they are the faithful who remain loyal to God in the midst of pressure and opposition

The worshipers are not just religious attendees, but true worshipers

God sees beyond religious appearance to the true condition of your heart, and outward religiousness may impress people, but God looks at the inward reality

He knows **who truly belongs to Him**, and He is marking them off as His own

2nd Question: Who are the Gentiles? Gentiles are the nations, meaning people who are not Jews

But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles....

In terms of ethnicity and nationality, the word usually refers to those outside Israel

The Gentiles in **Revelation 11:2** also carry a **spiritual sense** and describe those who are outside a **covenant relationship with God. These Gentiles represent the world outside God's covenant protection, hostile to His truth, and permitted for a time to tread down the holy city**

e.g., the **unbelieving world**, the nations **under Antichrist's influence**, and literal **nations hostile to Jerusalem**

This measurement is about ownership, not just information

In Scripture, measuring is never about God figuring **something out**; He already **knows everything**

Measuring is a declaration, "This belongs to Me." "This is under My authority"

When John **(39)** measures the **temple**, the **altar**, the **worshippers**

...it's God saying: "These are Mine. I know them. I claim them"

What is measured is what **God claims**. What **God claims**, He knows. What God knows, He preserves

The angel tells John to measure: the **temple, altar, worshippers**, ...but not the outer court. Why?

The outer court is "**And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months**"

Revelation 11:2 adds an **important contrast**

The outer court is not measured; that part is left out and handed over to the Gentiles

There is a clear distinction between what is **inwardly God's** and what is **outwardly exposed** to trampling and oppression

Gentiles will control the temple for this period – 42 months- **Antichrist's influence**

There will be a world ruler **who will desecrate the temple** at the **beginning of the 3 ½ years**- **He comes with peace, diplomacy, or deceptive calm** Daniel 11:21 NKJV

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for **one week**; But in the **middle of the week** He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate Daniel 9:27 NKJV **(260)**

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand **For a time and times and half a time** Daniel 7:25 NKJV **(260)**

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months** Revelation 13:5 NKJV

He will proclaim himself to be God Dan 9:27; 12:11; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:14-15

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition 2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV

who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God 2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV

This period will end with the return of Christ to establish his millennial kingdom

However, the “**times of the Gentiles**” will end

And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled Luke 21:24 NKJV

The trampling of the holy city does not mean the silence of heaven, because in **verse 3** God raises up two witnesses to speak for Him

Verses 3 give us the ministry of **two witnesses**

And I God will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. Revelation 11:3 NKJV

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. Revelation 11:4 NKJV

And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. Revelation 11:5 NKJV

These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. Revelation 11:6 NKJV

Two witnesses will come on the scene and prophesy for 1260 days (42 months, or 3 1/2 years) dressed in sackcloth

The two witnesses are important because they show that in the darkest hour of human history, God still has a voice in the earth

Again, He’s calling people **to repentance**, He’s still **confronting evil**, and He still **empowers His servants** to stand faithfully

They matter because they remind us that opposition will never silence God

Grace, if God is going to raise up witnesses during the Tribulation, then He is calling for witnesses now

The world does not **just need more opinions**. It needs people who will speak clearly for Christ

The **term witness first appears** in the Bible in **Genesis**

In the NKJV, one of the earliest clear uses is: **“that they may be my witness that I have dug this well” Genesis 21:30 NKJV**

What does witness mean?

In Scripture, a witness is someone or something that **gives testimony, confirms truth, or serves as evidence**. It can refer to

A person who testifies to what they have seen and or know

An object or sign that stands as proof of remembrance

A public confirmation of a covenant, promise, event, or truth

In **Genesis 21**, the witness is tied to proof. Abraham gives seven ewe lambs as a visible testimony that the well belonged to him

So in that case, **witness means evidence that confirms what is true**

Why Two? “Two witnesses”= legal sufficiency, **Deuteronomy 19:15**, the law concerning witnesses

One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established Deuteronomy 19:15 NKJV

A witness is a testimony that confirms truth

In the Bible, a witness is not just someone who talks

A witness is someone whose words, life, and testimony **point clearly to what is true about God**

Sackcloth, a coarse cloth, is a sign of mourning and grief

The two witnesses ministered in a spirit of mourning and urgency, as shown by their sackcloth, because they were calling a rebellious world to repentance in the face of coming judgment.- **Joel 1:13 NKJV** — ministers wear sackcloth in lament, **Jonah 3:5–6 NKJV** — sackcloth is used in repentance and mourning, and **Isaiah 22:12 NKJV** — sackcloth is associated with weeping and mourning

Who are the two witnesses? Some think these witnesses are Elijah and Moses, but the Book of Revelation does not specify who they are

There is some evidence for one of these witnesses being Elijah because **Malachi** prophesied that he would come back before the day of the Lord comes

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord Malachi 4:5 NKJV (525)

Both **Moses** and **Elijah** were in the Transfiguration scene of Christ **Matthew 17:3**

Others think that these two witnesses are **Enoch** and **Elijah**. Probably the best way to interpret these men is that they come with the powers of **Moses** and **Elijah**

The primary role of the Witnesses is to prepare for the coming of the Messiah

As John the Baptist prepared for Christ's coming in the first advent in **John 1:23 NKJV, I am**

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord

Worthy of it all

Grace, the message of **Revelation 11** is that God knows who is His

And that He will always have a witness on the earth

So, this morning, we do not live in fear, but in faith, worship

The world may shake, but Jesus is still worthy

The nations may rage, but Jesus is still worthy

The pressure may rise, but Jesus is still worthy

So let us sing it as we mean it: **You are worthy of it all**