

As your Pastor, my prayer is that as we study **Revelation 11** and beyond, you will come away with deeper confidence in God's sovereignty, a stronger commitment to be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ

Above all, I want this study to move us **from fear to faithfulness, from silence to boldness, and from compromise to courageous obedience**

Revelation 11 functions as an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets

Just like **Revelation 7**, there is a pause in judgment, and then in **Revelation 8**, we see the seventh seal open, which introduces us to the trumpet judgments

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

The Tribulation will last **seven years**, but the **Great Tribulation** will last 42-months, or 1260 days, 3 ½ years

John received a reed like a measuring rod, then is commanded to measure the **temple**, the **altar**, and the **worshippers**

Excluded is the **Outer court** "given to the Gentiles"

Timeframe "they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months"

Why measure the Temple in **Revelation 11**? God is measuring a people, not just a place

OT parallels: **Ezekiel 40–48; Zechariah 2, Revelation 21**

Here is what is being measured

The temple of God - **The temple of God points to the place of His dwelling.** God's presence must be central in our lives More than a building, it reminds us that God desires to be at the center of our lives, not just another part of life

Ask yourself, Is God truly at the center of my life, or have other things taken His place?

We cannot live on leftovers spiritually. We need daily fellowship with the Lord

The altar- **The altar points to worship, sacrifice, and drawing near to God.** True worship requires surrender- Real worship is **not just singing with our lips**. It is surrendering our hearts

So, we come to God honestly, humbly, and fully. Do not just go through the motions. Bring Him your devotion, your obedience, your burdens, and your whole heart

Those who worship there- God knows who truly belongs to Him- God is identifying His own people. He sees beyond appearances and knows every true worshiper. **1 Samuel 9-10, 16**

...For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. **1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV**

Who are the **worshippers** specifically? There are two main ways this is understood

Faithful believers, the true worshiping people of God

These worshipers are those in a covenant relationship with God, the genuine believers whom God knows and claims as His own

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

In a more **literal-futurist view**, faithful worshipers connected to the temple in Jerusalem

This may refer to a future group of Jewish **worshippers** associated with the literal temple during the tribulation. Even then, the main point remains the same: **God knows who truly belongs to Him**

The worshipers are not just **religious attendees**, but true worshipers

God always makes a **distinction between outward religion** and the **inward reality**

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

Interpretations of Verse 1-2

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, where 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**

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 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

God 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

The time frame of **forty-two months**, 1,260 days comes from **Daniel 7:25**

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)

Here is the basic breakdown: **time** = 1 year, **times** = 2 years, **half a time** = half a year, so altogether that equals 3½ years

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days Revelation 12:6 NKJV

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent Revelation 12:14 NKJV

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

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

The Gentiles in **Revelation 11:2** 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, literal nations hostile to Jerusalem

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**

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

Old Testament background is critical for interpretation

This moment in **Revelation 11:1** echoes prophetic visions

Ezekiel 40–48 - the temple measured before restoration (670-700)

...He had a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand, and he stood in the gateway. 4 And the man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your mind on everything I show you; for you were brought here so that I might show them to you. Declare to the house of Israel everything you see. Ezekiel 40:3-4 NKJV

Then he brought me into the **outer court**; and there were chambers and a pavement made all around the court; thirty chambers faced the pavement. Ezekiel 40:17 NKJV

Zechariah 2:1–5- Jerusalem measured as a sign of protection (615)

Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand. 2 So I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length." 3 And there was the angel who talked with me, going out; and another angel was coming out to meet him, 4 who said to him, "Run, speak to this young man, saying: 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, because of the multitude of men

and livestock in it. 5 For I,' says the Lord, 'will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.' " Zechariah 2:1–5 NKJV

In **Revelation 11**, **21**, **Ezekiel**, and **Zechariah**, measuring means three specific things

God is defining what is His, God is about to act, God is protecting what is His

Revelation 11 continues that pattern, **measurement precedes divine action**

God **distinguishes and secures** what belongs to Him, even when external suffering is allowed

The New Jerusalem- But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Revelation 21:22-24 NKJV

These are the exits of the city. On the north side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits 31 (the gates of the city shall be named after the tribes of Israel), the three gates northward: one gate for Reuben, one gate for Judah, and one gate for Levi; 32 on the east side, four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan; 33 on the south side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Simeon, one gate for Issachar, and one gate for Zebulun; 34 on the west side, four thousand five hundred cubits with their three gates: one gate for Gad, one gate for Asher, and one gate for Naphtali. 35 All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE." Ezekiel 48:30-35 NKJV

Jehovah Shammah or Yahweh Shammah, meaning The LORD is there

The glory of the city is not in its walls, gates, or size—the glory of the city is that God is there

Revelation 21:9-21 ends with a city marked by one defining reality: THE LORD IS THERE Ezekiel 48:35 NKJV

That is the hope of every believer

That is why these closing songs fit so well. Draw Me Close to You is the **cry for nearness**

Lord, I Need You is the **confession of dependence**

The future promise of God's presence should produce a present hunger for God's presence

The city to come says God will be with His people forever, and the church today answers

Then draw us close, Lord, because we need You now