

## ***Session 10 The Forerunner Message in Revelation 10-11***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. **Review:** The 5 chronological sections in the book of Revelation tell us the main storyline of judgment events against harlot Babylon and Antichrist's empire. After each chronological section, an angel explains to John why the various judgments events are necessary. These explanations function as a parenthesis that puts the story line on "pause" as they answer questions like *Why is God's wrath is so severe?* and, *What happens to the saints in midst of the crisis that was described?*
- B. **Outline of Revelation 10** (the second parenthetical section or angelic explanation)
- 10:1-4**      The mighty angel with the little book and the 7 thunders  
**10:5-7**      The announcement that there will be no more delay  
**10:8-11**     John commanded to eat the scroll and prophesy
- C. **Outline of Revelation 11** (the second parenthetical section or angelic explanation continued)
- 11:1-2**      The tribulation temple and the trampling of Jerusalem  
**11:3-6**      The ministry of the two witnesses  
**11:7-12**     The death and resurrection of the two witnesses  
**11:13**      The great earthquake in Jerusalem
- D. Revelation 10 and 11 describes the second parenthetical section or angelic explanation in the book of Revelation. In this angelic explanation (10:1-11:13), God assures His people that He will release prophetic direction and great power to help them in context to the crisis of the trumpet judgments.
1. In Revelation 10, God will release great prophetic insight in the face of escalating deception.
  2. In Revelation 11, the two witnesses will preach with power and release God's judgments.
- E. The sixth trumpet will result in 1/3 of the earth being killed, yet many will still worship demons. The earth will be dominated by 4 strongholds—murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft (9:21).
- <sup>15</sup>So the four angels...were released to kill a third of mankind...<sup>20</sup>The rest of mankind... did not repent...that they should not worship demons...<sup>21</sup>They did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:15-21)***
- F. There will be many false signs at that time (13:13; 16:14; 18:23; 19:20; cf. Mt. 24:4; 2 Thes. 2:8-9).
- <sup>11</sup>Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...<sup>24</sup>For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:11, 24)***
- G. Joel prophesied the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in the end times (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21; Eph. 4:11-13; Rev. 11:10, 18; 16:6; 18:20, 24). Many believers will receive dreams and visions. One of the greatest needs in the end times will be for understanding (Jer. 23:20; 30:24; Dan. 11:33).
- <sup>28</sup>I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...<sup>30</sup>I will show wonders...blood and fire and smoke...<sup>31</sup>before...the great...day of the Lord. (Joel 2:28-31)***
- <sup>33</sup>Those of the people who understand shall instruct many... (Dan. 11:33)***

## II. THE MIGHTY ANGEL WITH THE LITTLE BOOK AND THE 7 THUNDERS (REV. 10:1-4)

- A. John saw a mighty angel who possessed a great measure of the glory of God (10:1-3). The description of this angel gives insight into aspects of God's glory to be released in the end times.

*<sup>1</sup>I saw still another **mighty angel**...clothed with a **cloud**. And a **rainbow** was on his head, his face was like **the sun**, and his feet like **pillars of fire**. <sup>2</sup>He had a **little book** open in his hand. And he set his right foot on **the sea** and his left foot on **the land**, <sup>3</sup>and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. (Rev. 10:1-3)*

1. *Mighty angel*: the release of the might or power of the Spirit
2. *Robed in a cloud of glory*: the release of God's manifest glory
3. *Rainbow around his head*: the release of God's promises and mercy
4. *Face shines like the sun*: the release of God's radiance and strength
5. *Feet are like pillars of fire*: the release of God's holy judgment to establish love
6. *Feet on the sea and land*: the release God's inheritance for His people
7. *Cries out like a roaring lion*: the release of prophetic messages with the boldness of a lion

- B. *A book open*: When a heavenly book is "opened," it implies that its prophetic information is being made known. When it is "sealed," it implies that its information is kept private until later.

- C. John heard 7 prophetic messages from the 7 thunders but was commanded to seal them up (10:3-4).

*<sup>3</sup>When he [the mighty angel] cried out, **seven thunders uttered their voices**. <sup>4</sup>Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice...saying to me, "**Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them**." (Rev. 10:3-4)*

## III. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE DELAY (REV. 10:5-7)

- A. The mighty angel raised his hand to heaven and swore by God who lives forever, promising that there will no longer be any delay with the sounding of the seventh trumpet; the redemptive purpose of God in history will be brought to its completion. The next trumpet is the seventh trumpet.

*<sup>5</sup>The angel...raised up his hand to heaven <sup>6</sup>and **swore by Him who lives forever**...that there **should be delay no longer**, <sup>7</sup>but in the **days of the sounding of the seventh angel**, when he is about to sound, **the mystery of God would be finished**, as He declared to His servants the prophets. (Rev. 10:5-7)*

- B. *Swore by Him who lives forever*: John saw the mighty angel raise up his hand to heaven and swear by Him who lives forever (10:6). This is similar to what an angel did while speaking with Daniel (Dan. 12:7). On both occasions, the oath related to the time in which God's plan would be finished.

*<sup>7</sup>...he [an angel] **held up his right hand**...to heaven, and **swore by Him who lives forever**, that it shall be for [3½ years]... **all these things shall be finished**..." (Dan. 12:7)*

- C. *No more delay*: Jesus returning to rule is described in the next chronological section (11:15-19).

- D. ***In the days of the sounding of the seventh angel:*** The seventh trumpet is the only trumpet that is described as sounding over a number of days. It will initiate the 30-day period in which Jesus' second coming royal procession occurs. This 30-day period is the additional 30 days occurring after the often repeated 1,260 days or 42 months (11:2-3; 12:6; 13:5)—totaling 1,290 days (Dan. 12:11).

<sup>11</sup>***“And from the time that...the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [1290 days]. (Dan. 12:11)***

- E. ***The mystery of God finished:*** The main aspect in the mystery of God or His salvation plans is the return of Jesus to rule the nations. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the kingdoms of the world become the kingdoms of our Lord. All will see them to be truly under Jesus' leadership. At that time, the saints will be raised and rewarded (11:15-18).

<sup>7</sup>***...in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel...the mystery of God would be finished. (Rev. 10:7)***

<sup>15</sup>***The seventh angel sounded...there were loud voices...saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord...and He shall reign forever...”***<sup>18</sup>***The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time...that You should reward Your servants...” (Rev. 11:15-18)***

- F. ***Last trumpet:*** Paul prophesied that the rapture would occur at the *last trumpet* (1 Cor. 15:51-52; cf. 1 Thes. 4:16-17). The 7 trumpets in the book of Revelation are the *only* numbered trumpets in the Bible (Rev. 8-9). I believe that Paul's "last trumpet" is the seventh trumpet mentioned in 10:7 and 11:15, since the seventh trumpet is the "last" trumpet mentioned in Revelation and in the Bible.

<sup>51</sup>***I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep [die physically], but we shall all be changed...<sup>52</sup>in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...we shall be changed [the rapture]. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)***

<sup>16</sup>***The Lord will descend...with the trumpet of God...<sup>17</sup>We who are alive... shall be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)***

- G. The last trumpet, by definition, cannot be *before* the seventh trumpet, as it is the *very last* trumpet to sound. If the rapture does not occur *at* the seventh trumpet, it has to occur *after* it to be the *last* one.

#### IV. JOHN COMMANDED TO EAT THE SCROLL AND PROPHECY (REV. 10:8-11)

- A. John had to assimilate fully the prophetic message that he had been given (10:8-10).

<sup>8</sup>***The voice which I heard from heaven...said, “Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel...”***<sup>9</sup>***I went to the angel and said, “Give me the little book.” And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.”***<sup>10</sup>***Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.” (Rev. 10:8-10)***

- B. ***Eat the book:*** John was to eat the book—that is to assimilate or digest it—so it was a part of him. Some translate this phrase as “the scroll” (ESV, NIV). Ezekiel also ate the scroll (Ezek. 2:10-3:3). God's messengers must eat and “digest” His Word related to His prophetic plans and promises.

<sup>1</sup>***Son of man...eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.***<sup>2</sup>***So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.***<sup>3</sup>***He said, “...fill your stomach with this scroll...” (Ezek. 3:1-3)***

- C. **Sweet:** speaks of the message of victory, salvation, justice, and deliverance for the oppressed.
- D. **Bitter:** speaks of the message of judgment that also brings persecution to the messengers.
- E. John was to eat or assimilate the prophetic word and then prophesy again. John was an elderly man in prison on Patmos; thus, he may have fulfilled this by sending the book of Revelation to others. What John prophesied next pertained to the Antichrist (Rev. 11-13), similar to Daniel (Dan. 10-12).

<sup>11</sup>*He said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.” (Rev. 10:11)*

- F. God releases His full purposes in partnership with His people as they prophesy them (Jer. 1:10).

<sup>9</sup>*Then the LORD...touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup>See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.” (Jer. 1:9-10)*

## V. THE TRIBULATION TEMPLE AND THE TRAMPLING OF JERUSALEM (REV. 11:1-2)

- A. John was told to measure the temple, altar, and its worshipers (11:1-2). The paradox and tension in the Tribulation temple being God’s temple (11:1; cf. 2 Thes. 2:4) is that the Antichrist will use it. The Tribulation temple will be built in Jerusalem on Mt. Moriah where Solomon’s temple was built.

<sup>1</sup>*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. <sup>2</sup>But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles.” (Rev. 11:1-2)*

1. The Tribulation temple will be built by religious Jews and desecrated by the Antichrist in context to the abomination of desolation (11:1-2; 13:12-18; cf. Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:4; Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31, 36-37; 12:11).
2. The Tribulation temple is not the Millennial temple that will be built by Jesus (Ezek. 37:26-28; 40-48; cf. Isa. 2:3; 60:13; Jer. 33:18; Hab. 2:20; Hag. 2:7-9; Zech. 6:12-15; 14:16-21).

- B. **Measure the temple:** To measure something spiritually means to evaluate it carefully and discern its spiritual quality and purpose. God’s people are to measure or carefully weigh the issues related to God’s purpose for allowing the Tribulation temple to be built. The temptation of some will be to criticize *all* activities related to it, while others will be tempted to accept *all* the activities as good.

- C. Jesus is described as measuring or evaluating the earth when He returns (Hab. 3:6). Amos saw a plumb line in God’s hand indicating that He “measured” Israel’s obedience (Amos 7:8). During King Belshazzar’s royal feast in Babylon, a finger appeared and wrote on the wall that God had weighed or “measured” and evaluated his kingdom and found it lacking (Dan. 5:27).

<sup>6</sup>*He [Jesus] stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the nations. (Hab. 3:6)*

- D. **Measure the altar:** God’s people are to discern the worship and prayer that will be offered there.
- E. **Measure those who worship there:** We are to understand and discern those who worship there.

- F. Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles for 3½ years (11:2b) The events in 11:1-2a may happen a few years before the trampling of Jerusalem begins in the measure of severity as seen in 11:2b.
- <sup>2</sup>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. (Rev. 11:2)**
1. **The court:** This refers to the court outside of the temple proper—the court of the Gentiles as it was called by some Jews. The Gentile has access to this area.
  2. **Given to the Gentiles:** Many of the Gentiles in the Middle East are Muslims.
  3. **Tread the city underfoot:** For Jerusalem to be tread under foot is symbolic of it being conquered and crushed to the ground. Grapes were trodden under foot (Judg. 9:27; Isa. 16:10; 63:2). Jerusalem will be trodden underfoot by the Antichrist’s armies (Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2)  
**<sup>2</sup>I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity... (Zech. 14:2)**  
**<sup>2</sup>...they lay siege against...Jerusalem...<sup>3</sup>all nations of the earth are gathered against it. (Zech. 12:2-3)**
  4. Jesus prophesied that Jerusalem would be surrounded and trampled by Gentile armies. This was partially fulfilled in AD 70, with its ultimate fulfillment occurring in the end times.  
**<sup>20</sup>When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those in Judea flee...<sup>24</sup>They will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles. (Lk. 21:20-24)**
  5. **42 months** (11:2; 13:5): This is a 3½-year period also referred to as *1,260 days* (11:3; 12:6). There are 8 scriptures and 4 phrases that describe the final 3½ years before Jesus returns—*1260 days* (11:3; 12:6); *42 months* (11:2; 13:5); *time, times and half a time* (12:14; cf. Dan. 7:25; 12:7), and the *middle of the week* (Dan. 9:27).
- G. In Revelation 11, Jerusalem is called the *holy city* (11:2), the *great city*, *Sodom*, and *Egypt* (11:8). The angel mentioned 4 aspects of Jerusalem that God’s people hold in tension in understanding His view of end-time Jerusalem. Some only see a holy city and a great city. Some only see Sodom and Egypt. There will be a wide spectrum of things occurring in end-time Jerusalem and its temple.
- <sup>2</sup>They will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months...<sup>8</sup>the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. (Rev. 11:2, 8)**
1. **Holy city:** Jerusalem is the only city upon which the Lord placed His name and glory. The Lord “set apart” Jerusalem for His holy, eternal purposes.
  2. **Great city:** Jerusalem is great in its importance and prominence in God’s eternal plans.
  3. **Sodom:** Jerusalem will be called Sodom because of the *perversion* that will occur there.
  4. **Egypt:** Jerusalem will be called Egypt because of the *oppression* that will occur there. Great oppression will come against Jewish believers in particular, even by some fellow Jews.

## VI. THE MINISTRY OF THE TWO WITNESSES (REV. 11:3-6)

- A. The two witnesses are prophets who will minister in great power for 3½ years (11:3-4). There will be other prophets across the earth—some will be martyred (Rev. 18:24). The two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days or 42 months—thus, during the final 3½ years before Jesus returns.
- <sup>3</sup>*And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy [1,260 days] one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3½ years], clothed in sackcloth.* <sup>4</sup>*These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. (Rev. 11:3-4)*
- B. *Two olive trees and lampstands:* Zechariah prophesied about the Lord’s lampstand that releases the light of His purposes and the two olive trees who stand before the God of the earth (Zech. 4:11-14). The lamp is a source of light in the darkness; the olive trees are a source of oil for the lampstand.
- <sup>11</sup>...*“What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?”...<sup>14</sup>So he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.” (Zech. 4:11-14)*
- C. The two witnesses will do miracles similar to those done by Elijah and Moses (11:5-6). They will call down fire and shut the heavens (causing a drought) like Elijah did and will turn rivers to blood like Moses did. They can strike the earth at any time they desire because their hearts will be in unity with God. They will not act out of personal vengeance or showmanship.
- <sup>5</sup>*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.* <sup>6</sup>*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. (Rev. 11:5-6)*

## VII. THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE TWO WITNESSES (REV. 11:7-12)

- A. The two witnesses will be killed and then raised from dead before all the nations (Rev. 11:7-10).
- <sup>7</sup>*When they finish their testimony, the beast [Antichrist] ...will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.* <sup>8</sup>*And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city [Jerusalem] which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.* <sup>9</sup>*Then those from the peoples...and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.* <sup>10</sup>*Those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them...because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. (Rev. 11:7-10)*
- B. The nations will rejoice at their death to the degree that they rage against Jesus taking them over (11:11-12). They will see the two witnesses as those who tormented them.
- <sup>11</sup>*Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them...* <sup>12</sup>*And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. (Rev. 11:11-12)*
- C. A great earthquake will shake Jerusalem. Some will turn to Jesus following it (11:13).
- <sup>13</sup>*In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. (Rev. 11:13)*