

A Measuring Rod

Rev 11: 1-14

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- Rev 11 is a fascinating chapter....
 - It is connected to the 2nd woe and its results....
- There are several things in this chapter that should pique our interests
 - Here are some of the things we will explore in this chapter
 - There is a temple that is to be measured
 - That temple does not exist today
 - There is an altar mentioned
 - Telling us that sacrificial offerings of animals will be re-instated.....

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- Additional things to note....
 - John is told to measure, the temple, the altar and the worshippers
 - Question.....
 - How does one measure worshippers?
 - John is told to not measure the outer court
 - “for it has been given to the nations”
 - To trample it for 42 months.....3 ½ years
 - The division of the 2 entities tells us....

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- There is a two-fold message here...
 - One is for Israel and the other is for “the nations”
- There will be/are two witnesses....
 - Note they are called “My witnesses” (Vs 3)
 - This description will give us insight as to who these people are and to whom they will minister
 - These two we see are clothed in “sackcloth”
 - Symbolizing judgment and grief.....
 - They too will prophesy for 1260 days (3 ½ years)

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- There are O.T. quotes inserted in this passage
 - Vs 4.....yet this is not a direct quotes but with variances.....for what reason?
- These are the things we will explore.....
- We will start with the “temple”
 - In Israels’ history there were three temples
 - Solomon’s temple....
 - Destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
 - Zerubbabel’s temple completed in 516 B.C (Ezra 6: 16)

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- The third temple called “Herod’s temple”
 - Of this temple, Jesus said, “And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” (Matt 24: 2)
 - The third temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Roman armies....
 - John understands/knows this third temple no longer exists
- But someday a temple will be rebuilt
 - How do we know this? (Rev 11: 1)
 - Temple Institute started in 1987 in Israel

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- What might lead to this rebuilding?
- Here is the likely scenario leading to the rebuilding of this temple shown to John
 - Ezek 38 and 39 will take place.....
 - This invading horde will be destroyed by a supernatural act of God (Ezek 38: 18-23)
 - A leader will emerge to sign a 7-year peace covenant with Israel and allow Israel to rebuild the temple (Dan 9: 27)
- All this does not tell us why the temple is to be rebuilt??
 - Answer is in Vs 1.....
 - “Measure those who worship in it??”

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- I Peter 4: 17..."for it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God."
 - The temple is rebuilt because of a covenant with a godless dictator....the Anti-Christ (Dan 9: 27)
 - The fact that animal sacrifice will be re-instituted tells us that those who worship in this manner...
 - Have rejected the ultimate sacrifice of Christ
 - Because of that rejection, Israel is going to suffer like never before...
 - Dan 12: 1.... "and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation"

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- Mark 13: 14-20 Jesus forewarned Israel.....
 - Note especially Vs 19....
- Leave out the court which is outside....
 - Note the progression
 - Israel will be dealt with first.....
 - Then the unbelieving Gentiles (Babylon) secondly...
 - They (Gentiles) will “tread under foot” Jerusalem for 42 months
 - Remember this 4th temple only exists by the “grace” of the Gentile ruler....
 - That ruler is increasingly angry for two reasons....

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- First....the Israelites are not worshipping him
- Secondly....there are 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are causing people to turn to Jesus as Lord.
- Third....there are these two pesky witnesses.....
- Now at the end of 42 months after the treaty is signed.....Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles.....(the great tribulation period)
- Now there appears two witnesses (vs 3-12)
 - But we are given clues as to who these men are.....

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- Note the term used “My two witnesses”
 - Here is further proof that this “angel” is the risen Christ since these two men are “His” witnesses...
 - These witnesses will prophesy for 1260 days
 - What will they prophesy??
 - They are clothed in sackcloth.....
 - Symbols of suffering and grief.....
 - They will preach to both Jew and Gentile
 - (Vs 9-10) tells us that people everywhere know who these two are.....
 - Their prophecies will be of great judgment.....

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- How does this apply to you and me today?
 - First.....many people today only want to hear.....
 - II Tim 4: 3-4...For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
 - Secondly.....the message of the Cross is a double-edged sword.....
 - It is one message of grace unmerited.....
 - And it is also a message that payment for sin is required