

The Temple Was Opened

Rev 11: 18-19

The Temple Was Opened

- In our text today, we find the foundation for what is going to come upon the world.
 - Vs 18....
 - The nations (note plural) were enraged.....
 - What this phrase means it that the world in general rejected Christ...
 - And it now throwing its support to the “beast” (Rev 13: 3-4)
 - It is this beast (Vs 7) who killed the 2 witnesses...
 - This is the fulfillment of Hebrews 10: 26-27

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- Heb 10: 26-27...For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.
- Consequently, the result of this rebellion is...
 - The dead are going to be judged
 - When is this to occur?
 - After the Millenium.....(Rev 20: 11-15)

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- While this event will not take place for some time
 - It is decreed that it is a certainty.....
 - The time is set and the judgment is sure....
- We also see this phrase....
 - The time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and saints.....
 - What does this mean?
 - How do we relate II Cor 5: 10 to this verse?

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- II Cor 5: 10.....speaks of the judgment seat of Christ
 - II Cor 5: 10...For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.
 - The judgment seat of Christ is a time of reward and not condemnation
 - How to do we know this it is for reward and not judgment?
 - II Cor 5: 1-9

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- Rom 8: 1....The same writer (Holy Spirit) says....
 - “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
 - The condemnation for our sins was nailed to the cross with Jesus Christ.....
 - Who paid for the penalty of our sins with His blood.....in full....
 - Heb 9: 28.... “so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him.”

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- The reward listed here in Rev 11: 18 is for tribulation and millennial saints.....
 - Because the “judgment seat of Christ” has already passed. (Rev 19: 8)
- We must not lose sight of the fact that the coming judgment is for those who have “destroyed” the earth????
 - Mankind was created to be a steward of the earth
 - Gen 1: 28a..... And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it

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- Consider all the destruction of the earth caused by men...
 - How many fields/forests/cities have been destroyed through war?
 - Consider no-mans land in WW1/barbed wire/trenches
 - Hiroshima.....
 - How many rivers and lakes were destroyed???
 - Lake Erie in the late 60's was considered dead....
 - Ganges/India, Yellow/ China, Citarum/Indonesia
 - Slums in major cites around the world.....

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- What about destruction of the innocence of our children?
 - Human trafficking, drugs; pornography etc.....
 - What is the #1 drug in the United States today?
 - Marijuana.....
- Knowing all this, we like John must look up...
 - Col 3: 2.... If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- Vs 19.....When John looked up..."and the temple of God which is in heaven was opened"

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- Isn't it interesting that this chapter (11) opens with a temple in Jerusalem.....
 - Where the beast will set himself up as god.....
 - Counterfeit in every aspect....
- Now a “real” temple appears to John....
 - Heb 8: 1-2.... Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

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- We in this verse are given a glimpse into heaven.....
 - Rev 21: 3.... And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.
 - Tabernacle and temple are used interchangeably
 - Rev 21: 22.... And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

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- The issue is not the temple itself rather it is what appears in the temple.....
- The Ark of the Covenant!!!
 - The Ark disappeared when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem
 - Many throughout the centuries have looked for it
 - Yet here it appears in heaven!!!!
 - Contained within is the jar of manna, Aaron's rod and the two tablets of stone
- Consider the gospel message in this scene....

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- We have the jar of manna.....
 - Heavenly bread encased in a jar of clay
 - John 6: 51...."I AM the bread of life that came down out of heaven, if anyone eats this bread he will live forever."
- Aaron's rod that budded....
 - That which was dead now has life
 - I Cor 15: 3-4.... For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

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- Two tablets of stone.....
 - Matt 5: 17-18.... Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
 - Over all these things.....the Mercy Seat
 - Ex 25: 22a..."There I will meet with you from above the mercy seat."
 - Lam 3: 21-26.....