

AUSTELL GRANDVIEW SDA CHURCH PRESENTS



THE
APOCALYPSE
SERIES

SHOWCASING JESUS CHRIST IN PROPHECY

THE BLOODY
WITNESS

EPISODE 8

THE BLOODY WITNESS

Based on Revelation Chapter 11

EDSON PATRICE

MAIN IDEA

After the seven seals are broken, the scroll is opened and we are finally able to see its contents. Two visions within the scroll reveal God's ultimate plan to bring His Kingdom to the earth. And as conquerors God's people stand at the very center of this plan, only their conquest is not for them to take up arms, but to take up the cross.

KEY TEXT

'But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and those who saw them were terrified. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies watched them. At that moment there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.' (Revelation 11:11-13)

SUPPORTING TEXT

'But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."' (Matthew 20:22-23)

APOCALYPTIC IMAGERY

Zechariah 2 & 4; Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1; Daniel 7; Joel 2; Exodus 7-11, 9:20-2.

INSIGHTS

John's symbolic visions reveal the heavenly perspective of history. It is the book's intention to place the events of Earth's history in the context of its final outcome, namely, victory over sin and the restoration of a broken world.

- **Revelation 13:1-10** provides the key for understanding the trampling of the holy city by the Gentiles during the forty-two months. One thing becomes clear: the context of Revelation 11 indicates that literal time is not intended here. The forty-two months allotted to the nations or Gentiles represents a specific period of about 1,200 years during which God's faithful people will endure hardship and suffering because of their faithfulness to Christ. It seems clear that **Daniel 7-9**, **Revelation 11:2-13**, and **Revelation 13:1-10** are related and must be understood in connection with each other. — Stefanovic, R. (2009). *Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation (Second Edition)*.

- In referring to **Zechariah 4**, John indicates that the activity of the two witnesses resembles the roles of Joshua and Zerubbabel. They embrace both the priestly and royal roles. It is especially significant that the two witnesses are related to the restoration of the temple (cf. **Rev. 11:1-2**). Just as the Holy Spirit worked through those anointed ones in restoring the temple and its services in Jerusalem (Zech. 4:6), so the two witnesses are used by the Holy Spirit as the bearers of the gospel message throughout the world. This message is centered in the theme of the restoration of the heavenly sanctuary and God's love and activity in the world. — Stefanovic, R. (2009). *Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation (Second Edition)*.

INSIGHTS

- The significance of this passage cannot be overstated as it the structural and thematic center of this book. This is a feature demonstrated by a literary device commonly used by bible writers called Chiasm. In this device the author uses a unique repetition pattern for clarification and emphasis. This can appear in the bible as a sentence, verse, chapter, and even book. Chiasms are structured in a repeating A-B-C ... C'-B'-A' pattern. The part the author wishes to clarify and/or emphasize is at the very center of the chiastic structure. A careful study of Revelation will show chapter 11 as the center of the book and thus the portion which the author wants to emphasize the most.
- The symbol of the slaughtered lamb is very important to understand the purpose of this passage. It is the crucifixion of Jesus that is the foundation of God's established kingdom. The book shows us inaugural ceremony that crowns Jesus because He conquered by dying for his enemies, not by vanquishing them. This is the core message of the book of Revelation.
- The scroll reveals to us the mission of God's people: to reflect the Lamb by loving sacrificially and to so show God's mercy through that love and bring the nations to repentance
- From creation to re-creation we see a beautiful throughline of God's redemptive purpose on Earth, which culminates so poignantly in this passage and answers the question that is the basis of this terrific controversy of good and evil – **God is love.**
- How is God calling you to drink His cup and be baptized with His baptism? What do His life of sacrificial love look like in your life?