Praise God, you know what an awesome morning so far. It just never ceases to amaze me again that the privilege that we have, come into God's presence at opportunity just to worship and to be in His presence, it's always awesome. It's just always awesome. It is such an amazing privilege.

Well, open your Bibles with me. The Book of Revelation, the 11th chapter, been on this awesome adventure, and God's Word, doing a verse by verse study, in this particular book, we've seen some amazing things in our study, and I know for those of you who are perhaps guests with us today, just a quickly, a definition of that Word Revelation. And though that means apocalupis, the Greek word for that, I mean, there's so many connotations that come with that Word, you hear the Book of Revelation, you hear that name Revelation, the conjures of kinds of imaginations, but through reality that Word, apocalupis means unveiling a revealing a disclosure. And that's what we have here in the Book of Revelation is disclosure.

First and foremost of Jesus in His glory, and how He's interacting with the churches already on the Book of Revelation, and from chapter four on, as He brings judgment upon the world, as He's taking the body of Christ out, it's just really a mints and scope, and it's absolutely amazing as we study this out. So we worked our way up to chapter 11. So that meant we've already seen some pretty intriguing things, some pretty amazing things in our study in the Book of Revelation, and you know what, there's a lot more to come, that's going to be very intriguing. So let's just go ahead and jump in here, if you join with me, and let's read from verses one of Revelation chapter 11, up through verse 14, and we'll jump in after that and begin to look at our verses that we're going to study and concentrate on today, more in depth.

The Book of Revelation, chapter 11 beginning in verse one, and it just always amazes me that John, the Apostle, found himself on the island of Patmos, and the Holy Spirit inspired him to pin these words, as God was giving him these visions. We find this in verse one, Revelation 11, then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers. But do not measure the outer courtyard for it has been turned over the nations, and they will trample the Holy City for 42 months. That will give power for my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap, and will prophesy during those 1260 days.

These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lamp stands that stand before the Lord of all the earth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths, and consumes their enemies, this is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. They have power to shut the sky, so that no rain will far as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the ocean with every kind of plague as often as they wish.

When they complete their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottom of this pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the mainstream of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, the city where their Lord was crucified. And for three and one half days, all peoples' tribes, languages and nations will stare at their bodies, no one will be allowed to bury them. All the people who belong to this world will gloat over them and give presents to each other to celebrate the death of these true prophets who would torment them.

But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up, terror struck all who were staring at them. Then a loud voice from heaven called the two prophets, come up here, and they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched. The same time there was a terrible earthquake that destroyed a tenth of the city. 7,000 people died in that earthquake, and everyone else was terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven in verse 14.

The second terror or woe is passed, but look, the third is quickly coming. Some amazing stuff that we're reading about here. It's important to note again, what we're reading and studying here is information that's got as disclosing to us in this parentheses here. As the last trumpet that we've studied about, trumpet the sixth trumpet was blown, there was this parentheses period where God just gives us more information about what's happening during the tribulation hour, and we're going to continue that all the way up through verse 14.

It's at that point that the seventh trumpet will blow and will continue with the judgments. So in God giving us insight as to what's happening, more in depth information, let's begin to look at this and tear this apart a little bit more. Going back to verse one, we find this. Then speaking of <u>John</u>, the Apostle, I was given a measuring stick.

It's a mere translation, we'll see a read. And I was told to go and measure the temple of God and the altar and count the number of worshipers. It's kind of intriguing. What is happening here?

Something very important to note right off the bat is the mention that there's a temple. Now recall, in our study here, for the perspective of we're studying the book of <u>Revelation</u>, here we're looking at it from a pre-tribulational and pre-millennial perspective. That means we believe that there will be a rapture, the body of Christ. And then after that, there will be a period of time called the seven-year tribulation of the 70th week of <u>Daniel</u>, the time of Jacob's trouble, where you will see God dealing primarily with the nation of Israel and bringing judgment upon the world.

And that's what we're seeing here. But we know throughout history, from the time of 70 A.D., there has not been a temple standing in Jerusalem. Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24 to the disciples as they came out of the temple area and the disciples were pointing out to Jesus how glorious they were. Jesus said, look, not one of these stones will be left upon the other.

Basically, prophesying that the temple would be destroyed and sure enough under <u>Titus</u> Vespasian in 70 A.D., they sacked Jerusalem, killed, a lot of Jewish people. Their estimates are between 600,000 and a million Jewish people and they destroyed the temple. Now they weren't supposed to destroy the temple, but the history tells us that one of the Roman soldiers was drunk and he threw a torch in there and it lit it up. I mean, it burned the place up.

And because of the gold that was used in the temple, it all melted and ran into the cracks of the rocks. And that's why the <u>Romans</u> pulled all the stones apart. That's why the temple was taken apart completely. Stone by stone was in their greed to get the gold that was in the temple.

So then the temple was destroyed. It hasn't existed to this day. If you go to Jerusalem, the only thing that remains besides the temple mount of a remit from that time is the wailing wall, the Western wall, which is actually an outer portion. It really wasn't part of the temple proper.

So in Jesus' prophecy that the temple would be destroyed as certainly was, all of it. But we have this retaining wall. And of course, you've probably seen the pictures of the Jewish people when they go there for their daily prayers. They go over the Western wall, the wailing wall it's called by some.

But what we find here in the book of <u>Revelation</u>, knowing that we're looking forward to the future that this temple that exists during this time frame does not exist in the world today. It is yet to be built. It is the third temple. It will be the third in God's program for the nation of Israel.

We know that the first temple that God brought into the Jewish life as part of their worship to him was the temple under Solomon. And it was glorious under King David's son. And it was fashioned after the tabernacle that God gave Moses and it was an amazing place. If you've never done a study on the temple or the tabernacle, boy, when we do that some time or if you wanna take that upon yourself, it's well worth it.

It's absolutely amazing. And to correlate something with that. One of the things that's so neat for us is believers that believing in Jesus Christ, the Mishyak who came and died for sins, that at the moment you and I call up on the name of Lord, we ask Him to save us from our sins, guess what? We become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

It's not this physical place that you go into a building but we are now where the Holy Spirit resides. And that's stated in the New Testament six times that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit as the body of Christ. That is really neat. But to the Jewish people, the Jewish mindset, the temple is absolutely vital.

So you can imagine to those people who were devout, Jewish people who have lived throughout the centuries since 70 AD, knowing the history of Solomon's temple that was destroyed. And then the second temple that was built, and by the way, we'll look into that a little bit this morning, the second temple was nowhere in comparison to the glory of the first one until King Herod came along. And he embellished it and he built it up and he made it a pretty impressive place. And that's the temple that was destroyed in 70 AD that Jesus prophesied about.

But since that time in 70 AD, there has been no temple. The Jewish people at that time, they were dispersed in what's called the diaspora, the diaspora. And as like we've discussed before, in 1948, God did a miraculous thing in fulfilling prophecies given in <u>Isaiah</u> and in <u>Ezekiel</u> and some of the other prophets of the Old Testament and he brought the nation of Israel, he began to bring the people back together and he restored a nation that had been non-existent for almost 2000 years. You know what it's never been heard of before?

That is an amazing prophecy, which is a key prophecy to end times and where we're at in the world today. But the people of Israel yearn, those who are serious about the relationship with God, which by the way is a minority. The reality of so many of the Jewish people today are secular, they really are. It's probably a lot like America.

You know, you can go out and survey people in America. And most people will say they believe in God. Most people will say that they are religious. But when you really get down to brass tax and you would query them about that and ask them distinct questions about, will do you believe that Jesus is God in the flesh?

Do you believe the Bible is infallible word of God? You know what you're gonna find? A minority, a small minority, believe that today people. There are a lot of religious people in the world today.

There are a lot of religious people in America, but it's a small group of people that adhere to the truths of God's word in their context and believe that what we have here is real and authentic. And that God said what he meant and he meant what he said. And that's the reality for the Jewish people today. It's a minority, but they're a people of passion who long to have a temple restored.

Well guess what? It's going to come about. In fact, I wanna share some information with you today that lends itself to this. It's very important.

I don't know if you've ever heard of this group, but there's a group called the Temple Mount Faithful. Have you heard of them before? If you haven't, you can go to their website. They're led by a guy named Gertian Solomon.

And for years, their vision has been to rebuild a temple in Jerusalem, on the Temple Mount. That is their sole focus. They've been wanting to do that for a long time. I printed off their website some information about what their goal is and what they want to do.

And I'm not gonna share a lot of this, but let me share just some of it. And if you're intrigued, I would encourage you to go there because it's really amazing. And it does play into what we're reading and sitting about today in the book of <u>Revelation</u>. They talk about some of their objectives in here.

Let me read a couple of these. It says, "Liberating the Temple Mount from Arab or Islamic occupation." Well, what's the world's focus on today, the Middle East, the Nation of Israel, right? And the issue with the Palestinian people and the focus of who belongs in the land, right? And the pressure on Israel to give up more and more land, that pressure continues today.

Well, these guys believe that in order for them to carry out what they need to do on the Temple Mount, that the Temple Mount must be liberated from the Islamic Presence or the early Arabs. Also, the dome of the rock and the al-Aksim mosque will be replaced and must be replaced by a Jewish biblical holy site where the Temple will reside. So you obviously know the tension that exists today in that place and that part of the world. And it's prophetic.

God spoke of this. And you know what, it amazes me how many people, even in the body of Christ, really don't care that much. They're very indifferent. There's so many people that are very apathetic about what's going on in the world today.

If you're not keeping your pulse or your finger on the pulse of what's going on in the world today, now infrethetically, it relates to the things of God, but even in our country, it seems to me like so many people are just obliviously living their lives when our country, and I don't mean to switch gears here, but just so that we recognize where we're at, you realize the dire streets we're in in terms of economy and those type of things around here, in terms of just how we borrowed so much. And we're really on shaky ground here. Do you guys know what's happening with the government and bail out of various programs and stuff? There's some really fascinating things going on that I don't know to me personally could have significance in the future's relates to prophetic events.

Some of the things that we've talked about, have you noticed in the world the terminology about globalization and one world and people uniting? That's a common theme you hear a lot of that. Well, could you imagine what would occur if our economy collapsed? Do you think that would affect the other Markets in the world?

Probably in a major way. Probably most economies would collapse. But that would be probably the quickest way for the world to be on common ground here, but you just say, hey, we've got all get along. We have to all work together to make this thing work because hey, no, you're not better than we are now, you don't have any more economic status that we do, it's all gone.

So we have to work together. So just think about that. In light of what's going on, am I saying there's gonna be something major happening coming up down the road? I don't know, only the Lord does.

But Jesus said that we cannot know the time of His return to catch us up and to be out of here, but He said to know the times and the seasons people, the times and the seasons they are upon us. If you're a student of the word of God, you know that. I don't want to get into too much of this except if I said to say that there are these people over there that have a passion to restore the temple. And they have some unique insights to some things that are going on as it relates to Israel and the conflict with the Arabic people or those surrounding nations.

In fact, some of the things I did print off that I would encourage you to look out. There was a newsletter that they did, the last one was from 2007. And they've constructed, they've literally built cornerstones for the new temple, the third temple. And as a couple of times they've tried to go up and put the cornerstones in place, of course they're met with resistance every time.

So it hasn't happened. You know what? At some time it will happen. The cornerstones will be laid and these people have a mission to do that.

Also what's happened in recent history is that they've revived those who will serve as priests in the temple and they've been undergoing training for several years. They know of those who were Jewish descendancy. They know those who are of the tribes who will be serving in the temple and they've framed them up as co-ents, as priests in the temple. They've already manufactured everything they need for those who will serve in the temple, including the big gold menorah, the menorahs.

They've got everything practically at this point that they need. Something else is unique that on the garments that they will wear on their service in the temple, there's a unique die that they used to use centuries ago when the priests served in the temple. And the die that they use was made of these mullocks or these creatures in the sea around there and the sea of Galilee. And they would get this die out of that that they would put on the garments.

Well guess what? About the time the temple was destroyed, they disappeared. They haven't even been able to manufacture that ink that they use on the garments until recently because guess what? They showed up again.

It's not intriguing. So they even have all those things. These pieces of the puzzler are coming together that relate to another temple being built. And again, God's Word prophetically tells us the importance of that.

Some of the intriguing things I saw at this website too was an article that they had that says, the stage is set for the end time war against Israel. These are Jewish people who do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah. They believe that they need this temple in place so that the Messiah can come, but they don't believe he's already come. But they need to know that Jesus, Mishyak, Yeshua, Hama, Shaky is their Messiah.

And that's our prayer. When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as we find him with Psalm 22, it says, pray for the peace of Jerusalem. That's what we're praying for. It's not so much, frankly, a peace where there's no war, no conflict between the Arab people or the Muslims.

First and foremost, we're praying that they have peace here. Peace in their hearts because they've accepted the Lord of glory, the one who is the Lord who is their Shalom, their peace. Jesus, the Messiah. And an amazing thing is happening in the Middle East.

There are more Jewish people all the time who are understanding and realizing that Jesus is the Messiah. They're coming to faith in him. That's awesome. Guess what?

Also though in the Middle East, there are more and more Muslims. They're coming to faith that Jesus is the Messiah, that he is the one that they should worship, that the God of Abraham, Yisak and Yaka, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that he's the real God, the Muhammad is a false prophet, and that Allah is a false God. And God is doing an amazing work, even in the country of Iran, about 15, 20 years ago, the estimates of Christians, I mean, authentic, Borningan Christians in Iran were just, I mean, very insignificant, like 1,000, 2,000 people ate new wealth. They say to date, and in the last about five or six years, God has been doing such an amazing work in Iran that there's over a million real believers in Iran today, and it's happening in Saudi Arabia.

It's just like in China. There are 30,000 people coming to faith in Christ in China every day. And if you think the devil would learn that the more you persecute, Christians, it doesn't work because they multiply faster. That's what happens when the body of Christ is persecuted, something happens.

And people come to faith in Christ. God is working in an awesome way. And these people understand that the stage is set for the end time war against Israel. Something else they found on this, and I was sharing this with Tommy the other day before he even found this article.

And it speaks of the reality of some prophecy that a lot of people didn't understand its correlation till recently. And the unique thing about that is, is Daniel was told by God in Daniel chapter 12. When the Lord was showing him stuff about the end times, Daniel didn't understand it. He didn't get it and the Lord said, seal up the book, Daniel.

It's not for you to know that. That is something that will be revealed in the last days. You and I are privy in this generation. And in these days, we live in to see stuff unfolding before us prophetically that fulfills some of the stuff that <u>Daniel</u> saw that he didn't understand and the Lord didn't give him any insight too.

And some of the things that are happening even today, the speak of like, for example, <u>Ezekiel</u> 38, 39, which will be a coalition of nations that are led by Russia will come against Israel at some point. Can you guys see what's going on with

Russia today? Can you see the bear is awoken. The Soviet Union was dispersed almost 20 years ago.

But it's kind of, the Soviet Union is, the Russia is a smaller portion of what was a former Soviet Union, those satellite nations. And when Russia a month ago or so moved on Georgia, a lot of people believe that's just the beginning. And of course, do south of Georgia would be Turkey and you work your way down, guess where you come to, Israel. Some people wonder is that then beginning to position themselves for what ultimately will be a move against Israel?

Probably. How far are they going to branch out in that area? How many of the satellite nations that used to be part of the Soviet Union, are they going to try to regain who knows? But you know what, they're being pretty iron fisted in what they're doing.

They're standing up to the world, they're standing up to America, they're something and treaking going on that ultimately will have prophetic significance. It may even now, but it certainly will down the road. And that's important to understand what's happening in light of Russia. But when we look at Ezekiel 38, we see that there will be a coalition of nations spoken of that are very distant from Israel.

I mean, they're not right. They're surrounding Israel such as Iran, which is formerly known as Persia. Some of these other nations where Turkey is, Turkey will be involved in that, also Libya. But there's a Psalm called Psalm 83 in this article that I read here.

And I've been saying this out already, but in Psalm 83, in fact, why don't we turn over there? I think it would be fruitful to do that. These people who are doing the temple restoration understand that this particular Psalm is prophetic. By the way, many of the Psalms are prophetic.

A lot of you might be familiar with the prophecies in the <u>Psalms</u> relating to the Messiah, Jesus Psalm 22, Psalm 23 also, you know, Psalm 2. There's a bunch of them. We can go through a bunch of <u>Psalms</u>. But there are also some eschatological prophecies from here, meaning prophecies concerning the end times.

And Psalm 83 is one of those. And there are many Bible scholars who are beginning to see that there may be something unique happening that correlates more with Psalm 83 right now than <u>Ezekiel</u> 38, 39. A precursor or something that will set the stage ultimately for <u>Ezekiel</u> 38 and 39. And it makes sense and I'll tell you why.

Look at in verse one, <u>Ezekiel</u> 3, I mean, Psalm 83 verse one says this, oh God, do not be silent, do not be deaf, do not be quiet, oh God. Don't you hear the uproar of your enemies? Don't you see that your arrogant enemies are rising up? They devise crafty schemes against your people.

They conspire against your precious ones. Look at verse four, come, they say, let us wipe Israel out as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence. Boy, as I read that, and of course we've heard that throughout the ages, but it echoes daily in the Islamic world.

If it's not Mahmoud, Ahmad, Nenejad, of Iran, it's some of those who represent Hezbollah and Hamas, who tell the Western world in English, oh, we want peace, we want to do this, and then they turn right around and then preach to their people, death is real death to America. That's going on people. It's happening. That's what's happening.

They have an agenda. It's real, this is real. Do you remember the video we watched called the Rise of Islam? Whoa, we live in an intriguing time in the world, but yes, what?

God is in control. He's in control here in the book of <u>Revelation</u>. He's in control now. He's got plans and purposes, and he's going to complete what he started.

And part of that is completing what he intends to do with the nation of Israel. God has not finished with Israel, Israel, the church has not replaced Israel. That's part of the problem of a lot of people in the world today, a lot of Christians. Not believing the Bible is infallible in terms of that God inspired it and that you can trust what it has to say, or believing that Jesus was raised from the dead.

You know, a lot of people don't believe that, who proclaim to be Christians. They don't believe that Jesus was literally raised from the dead. You start moving away from those things. You're in big trouble.

You've moved away from the truth of the gospel and Paul said, it curses anybody who preaches the gospel. Other than what we have been given here, even if it was Paul himself or an angel, we know that Satan was an angel of light, right? But he was a fallen angel, masquerading, deceiving. Those things are happening today.

Well, God has a plan for the nation of Israel and so many of the mainline denominations in Christianity today believe in replacement theology that God has replaced Israel with the church. You know, we share some similar blessings, but God has a unique plan for Israel and he will finish it. And that's what we're seeing during the tribulation hour. That's why there's so much Jewishness that you see there.

There's a purpose. There's a reason for that. God's finishing His plan with Israel. But we turn our attention back to Psalm 84 and it correlates again because this is what we see happening in the world today.

Verse four again, come, they say, let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of his existence. Even this past week, Ahmed Ineshaud from Iran, again, said Israel will be utterly destroyed. It will not exist.

It will be wiped out. Here's what he wants to see happen. You know, I had mentioned about all these Muslims coming to faith in Jesus. Well, they have an eschatology too, meaning an end times perspective.

They believe that they are Messiah who is called the muddy. The 12th Imam will be coming on the scene soon. The Muslims believe that there has to be a chaotic circumstance, a situation in the world that will usher in the arrival of their Messiah to set things straight and bring peace to the world. So he has an agenda.

Mokmudak Mokdin-Egeod has an agenda to stir up conflict. He wants war. He wants there to be chaos and an apocalyptic type scenario because he believes, they believe, many of the Muslims believe that it is going to usher in the return of their Messiah. But praise God again, remember, a lot of them are coming to understanding that, that wait a minute, who they believe as Messiah is wrong.

He's Jesus. It's Yeshua. It's this Jewish Messiah. He's God in the flesh.

He's the real Messiah. Praise the Lord for that work that's happening. But still, so many today have this passion to destroy Jews. They have this passion to destroy Israel and its spiritual and nature going all the way back to Isaac and Ishmael people.

Look at verse five, yes, this was their unanimous decision. They signed a treaty as allies against you. Those are these Edamites and Ishmaelites, Moabites, Hagrites, Jibalites and Ammonites and the people from Philistia and Tyre, Assyria has joined them too and is allied with the descendants of Lot. If you were to break it down and define who's being spoken of here, these are those immediate nations right around Israel.

Now Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, those areas. By the way, Jordan is probably not going to get involved too heavily because we know during the tribulation hour that there will be a remnant of Jewish people who will free, that will flee from Israel and go to Petra and they will be safe there for a period of time. And we have had, Israel's had a pretty good standing with the nation of Jordan for a period of time but only 50 miles south of Jerusalem is Petra. Have you ever seen Raiders of the Lost Ark?

Actually, I think it's the third Indiana Jones thing. It's the Holy Grail. When they go to that part at the end, where they ride through that little trail and there's this city built out of rocks, that's a real place, that's where they shot that. It's in Petra, Basra.

And it's much bigger than that. They say that up to a million people can live in that area and they'll be so secluded, it would be almost impossible for even military, the military to come in there. Plus God will supernaturally preserve these people. It's pretty amazing.

But what we see here today, as we're reading from Psalm 83, are these are the very nations spoken of and the very people groups that are immediately surrounding Israel that want to destroy Israel and their passion is to destroy Israel at any time. That's what we see happening. Now here's the unique thing. Some prophecy experts believe that what this could happen is is with Iran rallying its sabers and doing even more than that, attempting to gain nuclear capabilities for the purpose of destroying Israel.

We know that that's what their agenda is. That there will be some kind of a catalyst that will force Israel to lash out because they're small, but they have incredible military might. That they will lash out and probably inflicts great damage on those immediate nations right there. Hamas, Hezbollah, the los and Lebanon and Syria.

In fact, we know that <u>Isaiah</u> prophesied in chapter 17 verse 1 that Damascus, the capital of Syria would be utterly destroyed. It's never happened before. But that would be quite a statement for the rest of the Arab and Islamic world. Hey, no mess with us because we've got nukes and we know how to use them and we will.

I mean, it's incredible to see where we're at and what will ultimately happen. How will it all come about? When it will all come about, we don't know. But again, we're in the times of seasons.

The stage is being set. And ultimately, there will be a fulfillment of what we've seen prophesied in Ezekiel 30 and 39. And I want to share a little bit about that as we jump into chapter 11 and looking at the temple because to the Jewish people and even these people who are the temple mount faithful, they're not oblivious. They know, based on what the Old Testament, the Tanakh, it's called, or the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, they understand God's purpose for Israel.

They just have missed Jesus as their Messiah. And they know, prophetically, they're in a time frame, just like we read that, hitting that article, that there's an end time war that is right on the horizon. They sense that, they know that. The nation of Israel, it's just amazing.

We talk to people who work with those who are in Israel. When Josh Black was here, pastor, a calorie chapel out in California, was here he talked about when they were on their trip over there and the Israelites that they talked, the Jewish people they talked to, that they're weary. They're weary. You know, they just want peace, they're just tired.

They're just tired. And so there's an atmosphere that exists, they would lend itself to a peace tree of some sorts. And that is going to happen ultimately. But when we're not sure, we're not sure, but boy, we know that our country is in a position our leadership is in a position trying to facilitate that and frankly force it by making Israel give in to certain sanctions, but God warned not to do that because guess what?

The lamb belongs to God first, and he's leased it to his people, the Jewish people. And he will finish what he started. And that includes being a restored, rebuilt temple, a third temple on the temple mount that will exist during the tribulation. Go back with me to Revelation chapter 11.

We'll investigate this a little bit more. We won't have a whole lot of time today, but I think some of that background that we've looked at is important because this significant contemporarily. Verse 1 and again, <u>Revelation</u> 11, <u>John</u> says, then I was given a measuring stick. And I was told, go and measure the temple of God and the altar and count the number of worshipers.

Well, some people will say, well, he's talking symbolically. Go measure a symbolic temple. Well, as we study on, we're gonna see there's nothing symbolic about it. It's actual, it's literal, it exists.

There's no reason to interpret this any other way than it is literal. Now, the interesting thing about here is again, we notice this says to measure the temple of God, well, then it exists, we know that. When was it built? Well, maybe sometime just before the seven year tribulation begins, could it be built before then?

Or will it be part of as we see in <u>Daniel</u>, a concession that's made as Antichrist comes on the scene and negotiates a piece? And maybe perhaps part of that piece treaty will be that the Jewish people will get their temple. That very well may happen. And I'll tell you why, there's something here that's intriguing that I wanna look at.

When it says, go and measure the temple of God and the altar and count the number of worshipers. Look at verse two, it says, but do not measure the outer courtyard where it has been turned over to the nations and they will trample the Holy City for 42 months. That's interesting. What's happening there?

Well, if you know anything about Solomon's temple, you know anything about Herod's temple. There was the holy place then the Holy of Holies, but there was also the Gentile of the courts, a large yard on the outside where the Gentiles who believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would come, but they weren't allowed past that. God says, don't measure that here. Why?

Because it's not going to exist at that point. Apparently the temple that will be built at this point, the third temple will just have a holy place and a holy of Holies. Now here's

the interesting thing about that. If that's the case, if there's no outer courtyard, it makes it a lot smaller.

If it's a lot smaller, then there's probably room on the temple mount for the Jews to have a temple and the Muslims to have the dome of the rock and the Allah-Ala-Aksk, do they have that still? They're mosque there. That's interesting. Because you know that the Muslims are going to go down without a big time fight.

I mean, they're in their, you know, they're in their, they're passion for their holy places there too. And of course the enemy fuels that. But that is an intriguing thing to think about. And that would help facilitate that.

Now, whether the Jewish people would go for that and we're going to be part of that, we don't know. But the world will be probably in such a state of chaos at that point in time that there will be willingness for concession. Because if you think about it, what's going to bring the world of that place that they're willing to try it all get it wrong? Probably economic collapse.

Warfare at some level, whether it's Psalm 83 and some tactical nuclear strikes that serve notice to people. There's going to be something heavy duty that goes on in the world that makes everybody go, wow, you know, we got to get along here. We got to make this work. And even the Jewish people and even the Muslims will probably say, okay, we'll make that concession.

Your side of the table mount, you know, build your holy place, build a holy of holy. And then you guys can maintain your place of worship here. Which by the way is what <u>Daniel</u> prophesied. The when Antichrist comes on the scene that he will enforce the seven year treaty.

But what we're going to see is we continue to move on or study the book of <u>Revelation</u> that he will break that treaty at three and a half year point. Okay. Jesus warned about that in <u>Matthew</u> 24 and also in the Gospel of <u>Luke</u>. And you know, that's where we're going to have to cut it today.

And we'll come back not next week because Mark Gomez will be here with a special message. But in the following week after that, that's going to be a great transition into where we'll be then. And we'll see what the best of the book of Revelation has to say here in chapter 11 and how the things we studied about and talked about today will correlate to what's happening here today. So if I said to say people, as we look at this and as we talk about this, we study this, we live in extremely exciting times.

But you gotta be balanced. We don't need to be people who run out and look at world scenarios and then try to do what's called newspaper, the text of Jesus, meaning you try to fit everything into the Bible. Just as you study God's Word, keep it in 10 up, be balanced, be discerning, but be aware of that we are in those times and seasons. And guess what?

Our redemption draws nine. And the reality is this, that God wants us to make the most of every day to impact the world for His glory. He wants people to come to a saving faith in Him. We're going to be studying about two witnesses here in chapter 11.

And one of the things that's pointed out is that they were faithful witnesses. That they were empowered, they were filled with the spirit of God, what, to share the love of God, to share the gospel. And you know what happens under that ministry of two

people? A lot of people during the tribulation come to faith in Jesus as a Messiah because of their faithful witness.

Well, that's what God desires for us to be a faithful witness and the way that we live our lives. And I pray that we find ourselves in that place Lord. Let us be used to view God. As we leave this place today, as we close, I'm gonna have a worship team come up.

We're gonna close out with a song this morning. Is that should be our heart, Lord help us to submit and yield ourselves to you. And we're gonna see when we continue the study that just like these two faithful witnesses were empowered by the Holy Spirit. It wasn't who they were.

It wasn't their backgrounds. It wasn't their nationality. If it was Moses, if it's going to be Elijah, if it's gonna be Enic, kind of throw a few things out there that'll kind of stir things a little bit, kind of provocative, maybe it's not them. Whoever it is, it's not about who they were.

It's about God's enablements for them. They're no different than you and I. All God wants is a willing heart. This is here I am Lord.

Like <u>Isaiah</u>, send me, use me. And it's not by my might and by power, as Zikrai says, but by my spirit says the Lord. We're gonna talk about that more so we continue the study in the weeks to come. Let's pray.

Father in Jesus name again, we just thank you so much for your living and active word. We thank you for your spirit moving in our lives. We thank you, Lord, that we do have a privilege to live in an exciting time. And with that reality, Lord comes great responsibility.

The Lord, we don't wanna get overwhelmed because we realize it's not us. It's not up to us and our strengths and our giftings and talents to go out and change the world. It's once surrendered heart at a time, Lord, as we say in that song this morning. Lord, as we look at the word, as we see people like Paul, that you supernaturally use to pen half the New Testament.

It wasn't Paul, it wasn't about Paul. It was his heart to yield to you and it was your spirit through him. God today, you're still searching for hearts like that. We'll say, Lord, here I am, send me, use me.

Father, may we be a people like that. As we depart this place, may we not be so selfish and self-centered that we don't care about those around us who are lost and hurting and dying. But God give us a burden for our neighbors and for our coworkers and for the people we go to school with and the people that we run into, Lord, that may not know you. Help us to be available to be used by you.

And again, I pray, Lord, that we're living our lives in such a way that your spirit is shining through us and that people will be compelled to come to us and ask, what is it about you? What is it in your life? And we can share the truth of your love and the fact that Jesus died for them too. And they too can have a relationship with the one true living God and know that they can spend eternity with you.

Father, again, thank you for what you're doing and our hearts and lives. Again, go before us. You're yowing inside the band that goes before your people. And again, as we close today with a song of worship, maybe we leave this place with worship in our

hearts and maybe we go out again into the world just knowing that we're empowered by you to make a difference by your spirit, by your grace.

Thank you again, Jesus, for loving us so much. We give you all the praise, Father, in Jesus name.